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Japan - Outer Mongolia: Tokyo is seeking early talks on establishing diplomatic relations. (Page 8)

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Japan - Outer Mongolia: Tokyo is looking to early negotiations with Ulan Bator for the establishment of diplomatic relations.

According to a high-level Foreign Ministry source, the Japanese ambassador in Moscow will receive instructions within the next few days to initiate discussions with the Mongolian Embassy there. This only awaits a final decision by Prime Minister Sato.

The Japanese consider that their affirmative vote for Mongolia's admission to the United Nations in 1961 already constitutes recognition. Ulan Bator's insistence on war reparations has been a stumbling block to any formal agreement up to this point. The Japanese now hope that the Mongolians will waive their claims for reparations in exchange for some form of economic assistance. Outer Mongolia has, over the past year, indicated a willingness to consider such an approach.

The Japanese Government is aware that the US is again considering the establishment of diplomatic relations with Mongolia, and Tokyo's decision to move promptly on this matter probably reflects a desire to avoid an appearance of following Washington's lead. Foreign Ministry officials probably also hope that parallel initiatives by Japan and the US will blunt long-standing opposition from Nationalist China, which claims Outer Mongolia as an integral part of China.

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